CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer system comprising an execution 2 environment for agents, wherein said execution environment 3 includes a monitor mechanism for monitoring a message 4 transmitted from one of said agents.
- 2. A computer system as set forth in claim 1,
 wherein said monitor mechanism comprises a manager agent.
- 3. A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a function for receiving a message from a source agent and for transferring said message to a destination agent.
- 4. A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a function for transmitting messages from a specific agent to agents other than a destination agent.
- 5. A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a registration function for registering an agent which has transmitted a registration message to said manager agent in response to receiving said registration message, said agent being operative to begin its activity within said execution environment.
- 6. A computer system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said registration message includes an agent type of a source agent of said registration message, and wherein said registration function of said manager agent performs a registration process in accordance with said agent type.

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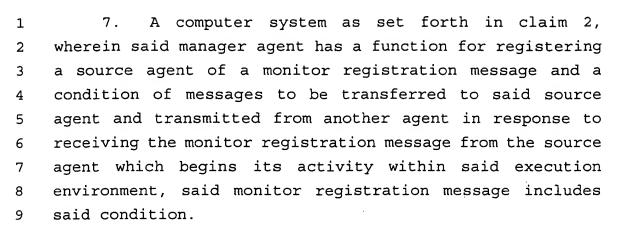
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8. A computer system according to claim 7, wherein said registering function includes:

means for determining whether said condition in said monitor registration message is registered in said manager agent; and

6 means for storing a source agent so as to correspond 7 to said condition when said condition is registered.

- 9. A computer system according to claim 7, wherein, in response to the reception of a message transmitted from an agent, said transferring function searches for registered conditions by content of said message, and wherein when there exists a condition that matches the content of said message, said transferring function transmits said message to a registering source agent of said condition.
- 1 10. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein 2 said execution environment is a virtual mall.
- 1 11. A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said message includes an agent type of said message, and

3 wherein said agent type is comprised of one of a customer 4 agent and a shop agent.

- 1 12. A computer system according to claim 2, wherein 2 said computer system further comprising an agent that has 3 means for transmitting a registration message for 4 requesting its registration to said manager agent.
- 1 13. A computer system according to claim 2, further comprising an agent, said agent including:
- a data storage for storing a condition of messages to be transferred to itself by said manager agent and transmitted by another agent; and
- 6 means for transmitting said condition as a monitor 7 registration message to said manager agent.
- 1 14. A computer system according to claim 13, wherein 2 said agent further comprises:
- means for receiving a message from another agent;
- 4 means for, when said received message is a message
- 5 addressed to a different agent, preparing an
- 6 associated message that includes contents associated
- 7 with said received message; and
- 8 means for transmitting said associated message to said
- 9 different agent.
- 1 15. A computer system according to claim 14, wherein
- 2 said means for preparing said associated message includes:

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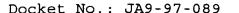
means for checking said contents of said received message and for extracting holding information concerning said contents of said received message; and

6 means for converting said holding information into 7 said form of a message.

- 16. A method executed by a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from an agent in an execution environment for agents, said execution environment included in a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:
- 6 receiving a message transmitted from a specific agent;
- searching for a registered condition by using contents
 of said message, and if there is a registered
 condition matched with said contents of said message,
 transmitting said message to an agent that registered
 said matched condition; and
- transmitting said message to a destination agent of said message.
- 1 17. A method as set forth in claim 16, further 2 comprising the steps of:
- receiving a monitor registration message from a registering agent, the monitor registration message including a condition of the messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred to the registering agent, the registering agent beginning its activity on the execution environment; and

9	in response to receiving the monitor registration
10	message, registering the registering agent and the
11	condition included in the monitor registration
12	message.
1	18. A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the

- 1 18. A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the registering step further includes the steps of:
- determining whether the condition in the monitor registration message is registered in the manager agent; and
- if the condition is register, storing the registering agent in correspondence with the condition.
- 1 19. A method according to claim 16, further 2 comprising the steps of:
- receiving a registration message from a source agent that has begun its activity within the execution environment; and
- registering the source agent of the registration message.
- 20. An associated message transmission method executed by an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, the execution environment executing a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from the agent, the method comprising the steps of:
- 7 receiving a message from another agent;



8	if the received mes	sage is a me	ssage addre	ssed to a
9	different agent, pre	eparing an as	sociated mes	sage that
10	includes contents	associated	with the	received
11 -	message; and			

- transmitting the associated message to the different agent.
 - 1 21. An associated message transmission method as set 2 forth in claim 20, wherein the preparing step further 3 comprises the steps of:
- 4 checking the contents of the received message;
- extracting holding information concerning the contents of the received message; and
- 7 converting the holding information into the form of a message.
- 22. An associated message transmission method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by the manager agent, as a monitor registration message to the manager agent.
- 23. An associated message transmission method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of transmitting a registration message for requesting the registration of itself to the manager agent.
- 24. A storage medium storing a program for monitoring a message from an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, said program enabling

of:

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4	said computer system to perform the steps of:
5	receiving a message from a specific agent;
6	searching for a registered condition by using contents
7	of said message, and if there is a registered
8	condition matched with said contents of said message,
9	transmitting said message to an agent registering said
10	matched condition; and
11	transmitting said message to a destination agent of
12	said message.
	
1	25. A storage medium as set forth in claim 24,
2	wherein said program further comprises the steps of:
3	receiving a monitor registration message from a
4	registering agent, said monitor registration message
5	including a condition of messages transmitted from
6	another agent and to be transmitted to the registering
7	agent, said registering agent beginning its activity
8	on said execution environment of said agents; and
i	
9	in response to receiving said monitor registration
10	message, registering said registering agent and said
11	message condition included in said monitor
12	registration message.
1	26. A storage medium as set forth in claim 25,

determining whether said condition in said monitor registration message is registered in said manager

wherein said registering step further includes the steps

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- 7 when said condition is registered, storing said
- 8 registering agent in correspondence with said
- 9 condition.
- 27. A storage medium as set forth in claim 24,
- 2 wherein said program further comprises the steps of:
- 3 receiving a registration message from an agent that
- 4 has begun its activity in said execution environment;
- 5 and
- 6 registering the source agent of said registration
- 7 message.
- 1 28. A storage medium storing an agent in a computer
- 2 system including an execution environment for agents, said
 - execution environment executing a manager agent for
 - monitoring a message from said agent, said agent causing
 - said computer system to perform the steps of:
- 6 receiving a message from another agent;
- 7 if the received message is a message addressed to a
- 8 different agent, preparing an associated message that
- 9 includes contents associated with the received
- 10 message; and
- transmitting said associated message to said different
- 12 agent.
 - 1 29. A storage medium as set forth in claim 28,
 - 2 wherein said preparing step further includes the steps of:

3	checking	said	contents	of	said	received	message;

- 4 extracting holding information concerning said
- 5 contents of said received message; and
- 6 converting said holding information into said form of 7 a message.
- 30. A storage medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein said agent further causing said computer system to perform a step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by said manager agent, as a monitor registration message to said manager agent.
- 31. A storage medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein said agent further causing said computer system to perform a step of transmitting a registration message for requesting the registration of itself to said manager agent.